

**CABINET MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN on 11 NOVEMBER 2014 at 6.00pm**

Present: Councillor H Rolfe – Leader
Councillor S Barker – Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environmental Services
Councillor J Cheetham – Executive member for Aviation.
Councillor R Chambers – Executive Member for Finance
Councillor V Ranger – Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships
Councillor A Walters – Executive Member for Community Safety

Also present: Councillors E Godwin, S Howell, M Lemon, J Menell, E Oliver, J Salmon and L Wells.

Officers in attendance: J Mitchell (Chief Executive), M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), R Harborough (Director of Public Services), M Perry (Assistant Chief Executive -Legal), and A Webb (Director of Finance and Corporate Services).

CA54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Redfern and Dean.

CA55 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2014 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CA56 UTTLESFORD GYPSY AND TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN

The Chairman welcomed residents from Arkesden to the meeting and invited Mr Colman, the clerk to Arkesden Parish Council to speak to the meeting.

Mr Colman said the parish council was totally opposed to the site that had been put forward in Arkesden/Wickham Bonhunt. He appreciated that the consultation should follow the same process as the housing allocations, that all sites should be included and residents would have the opportunity to comment on the merits of the site. However, he was concerned that the site assessment, set out in the gypsy and traveller report was still included as an appendix as this gave the impression to the general public that the site had been used in the past and was suitable for future use. He believed that this assessment, based on the opinion of Peter Brett, was inaccurate and came to the wrong conclusions. He asked that the appendix be removed from the consultation document.

The Leader thanked Mr Colman for his statement.

Councillor Barker presented the report. She explained that the Local Plan Working Group had met prior to this meeting. Members had gone through the consultation document in detail and agreed a small number of minor amendments.

There would be an 8 week consultation from Monday 8 December 2014 to Monday 2 February 2015, an extended time to take account of the Christmas period. The consultation would give the public the opportunity to comment on how and where to provide the 26 additional pitches and asked specific questions as to whether all the pitches should be provided now or just for the first 5 years, and whether there should be a small number of large sites or a larger number of small sites.

The Director of Public Services highlighted the amendments that had been made to the document.

Councillor Menell was concerned at the use of the words 'shortlisted' and 'potential' to describe the sites, as this could be misleading. She was assured that the final document would refer to submitted and existing sites. She asked for an explanation of how policy HO11 'the criteria for assessing sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people' was reflected in the document. It was explained that HO11 was a draft policy in the local plan, which would be subject to examination next week. The site criteria had been built on this policy.

Councillor Oliver was concerned at the inclusion of the appendices in the document. He felt that information for the site at Arkesden/Wickham Bonhunt was biased as it had been put forward by the owners of the site. The Director of Public Services replied that the appendices had been included as background information and were intended to facilitate the responses. Question 15 of the consultation gave the opportunity for any party to submit evidence about the sites.

Councillor Cheetham said the working group had gone through the document question by question and tried to ensure they were easy to understand.

The Leader said it was important to go through the laid down process and therefore all sites should be included in the consultation. The Council might be open to judicial review if it did not follow the correct procedure. He understood the residents' concern but said that the council had commissioned an independent study and this was now the opportunity for residents to comment. The key decisions on the allocation of sites would not be made until later in 2015.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet endorse the consultation document and time frame for consultation.

CA57

LAVENDER FIELD FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

The Cabinet was asked to agree to implement a flood relief scheme to reduce the re- occurrence of flooding that had occurred during the previous winter. A

joint application between the residents and owners had been submitted to the council to enable it to draw down Defra funds to offset against the total cost of the scheme.

Councillor Cheetham asked if action had been taken following the flooding that had also occurred in Newport and Stansted last winter. She was advised that the issue in Newport was being taken up by Network Rail. In relation to Stansted, flood alleviation measures were required as part the new development at 2 Lower Street.

RESOLVED that

1. The council implements a flood relief scheme comprising clearance of the banks of the Slade watercourse, the construction of a flood wall, and the creation of an over ground floodwater channel on its land to the north of properties in Lavender Fields, subject to land owner consents and the costs not exceeding £45,000.
2. The installation of a trash guard be progressed as a separate scheme for future consideration.

The meeting ended at 6.30pm.